

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
September 3, 2015

Present: Jane Knox, Noaris Burgos, Rita Braswell, Linkesh Diwan (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by chair Jane Knox.

Introductions were made.

The July 9, 2015 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Burgos/Braswell.

Walton stated that she submitted a grant application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for a proposed Food Too Good To Waste campaign during the latter part of the school year. The application requested funds to update the trash webpages to include Food Too Good To Waste information and redesign the trash web pages for easier viewing from various mobile devices, for a magic show and school community dinner presentation for each school. DEEP has given a positive preliminary response to the grant proposal.

The committee discussed the waste set-up for the Celebrate Mansfield Festival. Burgos will volunteer at one of the 13 waste stations from 1 to 2:30, Braswell and her partner Richard will help from 12 to 2 and Knox will help all day, as needed. Walton asked volunteers to meet with her the Friday before, September 25 at 9:30 to go over the logistics for the day. Knox revised last year's letter to food service businesses surrounding the town square, asking them to participate in Celebrate Mansfield by reducing their waste. The letter was sent a few weeks ago.

The Town Manager has given his approval to conduct a waste audit in the Town Hall. The committee discussed possible Tuesday dates in October for a Town Hall waste audit. Walton will coordinate the effort with the maintenance staff and confirm which Tuesday in October with Knox and Braswell, who have volunteered to help.

Members agreed on a Monday, September 28, 2015 tour of the Willimantic Waste Paper recycling facility. The committee will meet at the Town Hall at 10 am.

Walton shared pictures from Willimantic Waste Paper of recyclables from the transfer station that have been contaminated with trash. It was suggested mailing the recycle instructions to all residents, possibly in the tax bills or other mass mailing and revising the large sign by the recycle container using the recycle sticker design. Walton said she could go to the transfer station again for an hour or two on occasion as well as post information outside the entrance shed.

The committee has been asked by the Town Manager to consider ways to recognize good corporate environmental behavior. With modest impact, at one time the Town did offer small grants to businesses and a window decal to businesses who achieved good recycling rates. It was suggested that we ask every business to display "Keep Mansfield Litter Free" as a first step. Walton will bring an outline of ideas to the next meeting for members to discuss and refine.

Recycling Coordinator's Report

1. CT DEEP accepted the food scrap composting demonstration proposal. The project has been advertised and there are around 15 households that have signed up to participate by contributing their food scraps to the transfer station leaf pile.

2. Another Repair Café is scheduled for October 3, 2015 from 10 am until 1 pm. In order to put more emphasis on learning repair skills, two “clinics” will be held during the café – one on lamp repair and the other on bike repair.
3. A call has been placed to InfoShred about hosting a paper shredding event in the autumn.

The next meeting will be November 5, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

DRAFT